

S E C R E T

22 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM : Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. The critical events of the month, initiated on 13 August by the first of a series of new communist restrictions affecting passage between East and West Berlin, placed extraordinary demands on FBIS's resources. World reaction to the successive steps taken by the communists and to the West's responses and countermeasures was of priority concern to the intelligence community. To fill the numerous special requirements levied on the Division, while keeping abreast of the fast-breaking news developments, close and extensive coordination among all the field bureaus and headquarters was maintained, coupled with a search for new sources of information and comment. [redacted] 50X1

2. The Soviet Nuclear Test Resumption:

a. On 30 August, the Mediterranean Bureau intercepted an item in an embargoed TASS transmission in Russian Cyrillic to the press in Soviet Central Asia which indicated that an announcement concerning Moscow's intention to resume nuclear weapons testing was imminent. This information, disseminated promptly by the FBIS Wire, produced an immediate response at the White House, culminating in a State Department announcement quoting the FBIS intercept verbatim. The official Soviet announcement, which was broadcast some three hours after the FBIS report, substantiated the facts indicated in the preliminary intercept. [redacted] 50X1

b. An RPB spot analysis of the Soviet announcement was disseminated by the FBIS Wire Service as soon as the text of the announcement cleared the wire. [redacted] 50X1

c. The following morning RPB prepared a special memorandum for the Director, at his request, reproducing all authoritative Soviet statements since October 1958 on the possibility that the USSR might resume testing and the conditions under which it might do so. To meet a subsequent demand for this material in the State Department, USIA, and other Government offices, arrangements were made to reproduce the collation in quantity and give it general distribution. [redacted] 50X1

d. World reaction to the Soviet move was summarized extensively in roundups of significant broadcasts carried by the Wire. The initial communist propaganda follow-up to the Soviet announcement was described in a propaganda analysis item on the Wire. [redacted] 50X1

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e. A subsequent propaganda analysis Wire item reviewed "Moscow, Peking treatment of Belgrade Conference references to Soviet nuclear test resumption." [redacted]

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3. At the end of the month, the demand for more sustained and expeditious publication of monitored material bearing on the Berlin crisis and related world developments resulted in a high-level directive to publish the Daily Report six days a week for the duration of the crisis. Henceforth, local recipients will receive Friday's book on Saturday. Publication of a sixth weekly book on Sunday will substantially contribute to the currency of material available to the intelligence community after the weekend. The Latin American book is excluded from Sunday publication. [redacted]

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4. In connection with the review by USIB member agencies of intelligence warning capabilities during the Berlin crisis, and in response to the implementing directive to Agency components from the DDCI, FBID outlined its proposed contribution to this effort as follows: (a) maintenance of a propaganda analysis watch for indications of communist bloc efforts to build tension and condition populations for hostilities, the findings to be reported to the Watch Committee in advance drafts of the Trends and Highlights and in analysis items on the FBIS Wire; (b) emphasis on FBIS coverage of broadcasts tending to reflect military preparations, civil defense and security measures, and economic mobilization; and (c) development of a flagging system to bring pertinent items on the FBIS Wire to the immediate attention of the Watch Committee. [redacted]

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5. FBID performed the following special services in relation to the Berlin crisis: [redacted]

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a. A Special Memorandum for the President, requested through NSC channels, reproduced all public statements by Khrushchev on (1) the U.S. reply to the Soviet aide-memoire on Germany handed to the President in Vienna, and (2) the possibility of negotiations on the German problem. This RPB collation was forwarded to the White House for the President's weekend use at Hyannis Port.

b. The text of a Khrushchev "Letter to American Readers" on the Berlin issue, transmitted by NOVOSTI Press Agency in English Hellschreiber to Crosscurrents Press in New York, was carried by the FBIS Wire and subsequently disseminated [redacted] to a large number of consumers. A TASS item intercepted the first week of September indicated that this "Letter" would be part of a collection of statements related to the Berlin problem to be issued by Crosscurrents Press.

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c. World radio and press comment on the East Berlin border control measures was rounded up in a World Reaction Series supplement to the Daily Report.

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d. Trends and Highlights sections covering Soviet propaganda on the Berlin crisis continued to be used by the Department of State in preparing weekly background papers for officials at the policy level. Advance drafts of the Trends were supplied for this purpose.

6. As a reflection of critical world developments and the extraordinary monitoring efforts by FBIS field bureaus to meet intelligence community requirements generated by these events, the Division during the month exceeded all records in average wordage carried by the FBIS Wire, which amounted to almost 32,000 words a day. Although no single day approached the all-time 24-hour record of 55,000 words registered on 22 April 1961, coincident with the outbreak of the "generals' revolt" in Algeria and the aftermath of the Cuban invasion, the sustained average was almost 2,000 words a day above anything previously registered. On 31 August, for example, the Wire carried 43,594 words, representing in great part virtually all monitored world reaction to the Soviet decision to resume testing.

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7. The texts of the CPSU Draft Statutes and Draft Program, released by Soviet propaganda media in anticipation of the October Party Congress, were published as supplements to the USSR and East Europe Daily Report. After an initial press run of 1,800 copies, the Draft Program supplement was republished in 1,100 copies by photo-offset process to meet extensive requirements for extra distribution to local consumers and to Agency, USIA, and Department of State missions abroad.

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8. African Bureau

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a. After an extensive recruiting trip in Nigeria, the Chief, African Bureau hired six French/English monitors. All monitors hired will need considerable language training before they meet FBIS standards. East Coast Bureau French monitor, departed on temporary duty 9 September for Kaduna to assist in monitor training.

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b. Unseasonal rains and delayed delivery of metal window units will retard completion of station construction until November 1961. Construction of bureau housing is proceeding on schedule.

9. is in Panama conducting a reception survey. All present ECB and WCB monitored Latin American voice and press schedules will be included. The results of the survey will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the Panama Post should be expanded to improve Latin American transmissions. will proceed to Puerto Rico should word be received from Ft. Allen that the cloud discharge problem has developed there.

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10. Of 207 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during August, 63 (30 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

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11. During the month 88 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to Broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [redacted]

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1. Radio Propaganda Reports Issued:

- a. "The New CPSU Draft Program," with an appendix reviewing CPR and satellite propaganda treatment of the new program
- b. "Status of Albanian-Bloc Relations Still Ambiguous"
- c. "Peking Propaganda Conceals Cholera Epidemic in Kwangtung," updating and expanding a discussion disseminated earlier in a propaganda analysis item on the Wire

2. Other Propaganda Analysis Services:

- a. In response to a request from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Soviet boasts, threats, and forecasts of a communist victory, RPB supplied copies of a December 1960 collation and a more recent Radio Propaganda Report containing relevant quotations. It was understood that this material was desired by the Secretary for use in testifying before Congress.
- b. A selection of threatening statements by Khrushchev over the past six months was assembled for OSI.
- c. As of 15 September, 108 daily analyses of communist propaganda had been cabled to the U.S. delegation at the Geneva conference on Laos.

3. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports and special studies projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months:

- a. Soviet Outer Space Projects and Programming
- b. Developments in Soviet Military Doctrine
- c. Problems Encountered in the Administration of CPR Communes

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ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel returning to the Washington, D. C. area from overseas should use the following as a credit reference when required:

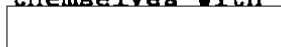
Office of Personnel
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N.W.

No other information, names of supervisors, etc., may be used.



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2. Personnel returning to the West Coast Bureau will associate themselves with FBIS and refer credit reference questions to the Bureau.



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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT

GENERAL

1. Bureau editors are reminded that corrections, amplifications, followups, and general servicing of copy should be made available to the BBC and other collateral consumers when pertinent to and appropriate for items already submitted. Editors are also reminded that point-to-point messages requiring a not-for-publication caveat should be addressed, administratively, to headquarters only.

2. The 22 August 1961 issue of STANDARD SOURCELINES, successor to the STANDARD BROADCAST LOGOGRAPHS, requires that the capital of Indonesia be spelled "Djakarta." Bureaus which have not received sufficient copies of this manual should notify headquarters.

3. Editors and monitors are advised to follow the GPO Style Manual in rendering nouns and adjectives denoting nationality. The only exception is "Laotian," instead of "Lao," when referring to the political entity.

4. Adherence to recommended STARCOM standards for line lengths of at least 63 spaces greatly facilitates Daily Report pagination. All bureaus are urged to comply with these requirements to the extent possible. One reason for the existence of many short lines in recent copy may be the fact that when the tape is backed up to make corrections the automatic counters fail to compensate for the deleted material and flash red before the line is complete.

London Bureau

1. Editors are commended for the steady improvement in the bureau's file of African material. A recent spotcheck of "Part Four" BBC Monitoring Summary disclosed no items which the Daily Report did not receive through the London Bureau.

Mediterranean Bureau

1. Monitors and editors are commended for their performance in processing the long and sometimes tedious Yassada trial proceedings, the UAR reorganization decrees, the difficult and obscure items on border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and for their detailed FYI's on the attention given by Middle East transmitters to the USSR's release of alleged CENTO documents. All of this material was greatly appreciated by consumers.

2. Writers of the Middle East Review are requested to take cognizance of Radio Cairo's handling of significant natural calamities and economic and religious difficulties in Syria, and of coverage by Radio Damascus of similar events in Egypt.

3. It has been noted that many routine items translated from Arabic and Turkish contain awkward and obscure phraseology in addition to being verbose. Editors should give to routine items the same degree of attention they give to

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significant ones, particularly in terms of editorial processing. It is also suggested that some of the lengthy FYI's dealing with specific items might be more advantageously handled as summaries or excerpts.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. Field bureaus are reminded that if a message from BIS requesting information "soonest" cannot be answered within 12 hours because of the unavailability of Cruising Monitor or other competent personnel, an advisory message should be sent indicating when information will be forthcoming. Since BIS attempts to relate urgent requests to normal bureau operating hours, urgency may not be reflected in the precedence of such messages. However, any expected delays in answering would assist BIS in satisfying questions posed at FBIS headquarters.

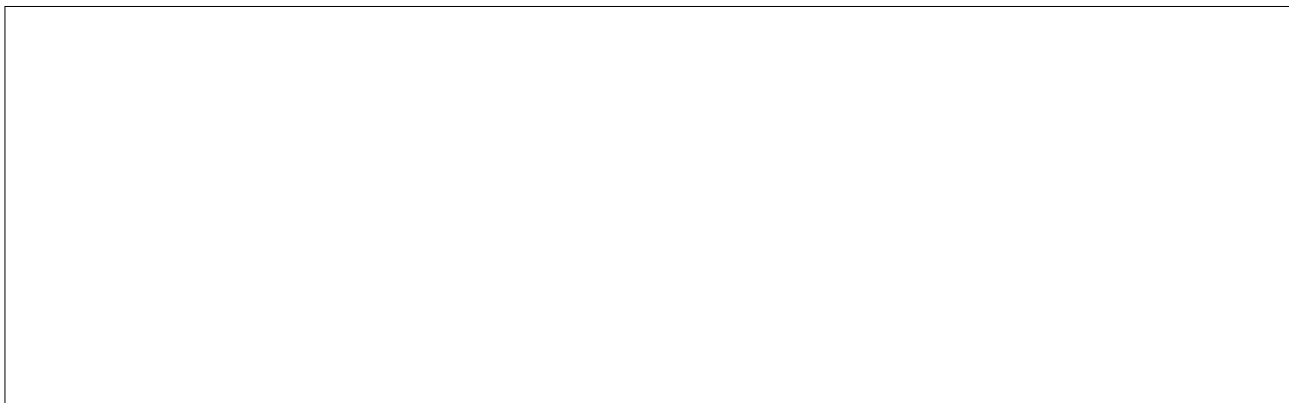
2. The Broadcast Information Section has completed the preparation of material for the publication "Broadcasting Stations of the World," which has a cut-off date of 1 September. The thousands of IBM cards have been sorted and made ready for the first IBM run, which is scheduled for late September. The publication is expected to be ready for distribution by February.

3. The Okinawa Bureau expansion of the editorial and teletype rooms was nineteen percent complete at month's end.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Several changes have been made in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and personnel should be sure to read the new booklet on the Association Benefit Plan and the accompanying memorandum dated 14 September 1961, subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

2. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were disseminated:



PERSONNEL NOTES

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Editor
West Coast Bureau

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(Retirement)

ROGER G. SIMPLY